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Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the substantive session of 1997 in section I and the annotations to the provisional agenda in section II.

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The provisional agenda for the substantive session of 1997 of the Council has been drawn up on the basis of the list of items approved by the Council at its organizational session for 1997 (decision 1997/201).

Provisional agenda for the substantive session of 1997

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

High-level segment

2. Fostering an enabling environment for development: financial flows, including capital flows; investment; trade.

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

   (a) Coordination of activities on a system-wide basis: funding for operational activities for development: implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227;

   (b) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly;

   (c) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme;

   (d) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

Coordination segment

4. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes.

   (a) Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system;

   (b) Freshwater, including clean and safe water supply and sanitation.

General segment

5. Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major international United Nations conferences and summits.

6. Coordination, programme and other questions:

   (a) Reports of coordination bodies;

   (b) Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health;

   (c) International cooperation in the field of informatics;

   (d) Coordination of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of energy;

   (e) Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome;

   (f) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999;

   (g) Calendar of conferences in the economic, social and related fields;

   (h) United Nations University;

   (i) Proclamation of international years.

7. Reports, conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies:

   (a) Economic questions;

   (b) Environmental questions;

   (c) Social questions;

   (d) Human rights questions.

8. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

10. Regional cooperation.

11. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

12. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227.

13. Non-governmental organizations:

   (a) Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations;

   (b) Increase in the membership of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

14. New and innovative ideas for generating funds.

II. ANNOTATIONS

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

At its organizational session for 1997, the Council approved the provisional agenda for its substantive session (decision 1997/201).

In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/5715/Rev.2), should any proposals be submitted for the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda, they will be circulated as soon as they are received, and a supplementary list of items will be issued as an addendum to the provisional agenda.

A. High-level segment

Item 2. Fostering an enabling environment for development: financial flows, including capital flows; investment; trade

At the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1996, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Council should discuss issues of the enabling national and international environment in the economic, social and related fields, including the mobilization of resources (agreed conclusions 1996/1 on coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication, para. 51).

At its resumed substantive session of 1996, the Economic and Social Council decided that the high-level segment of the substantive session of 1997 of the Council should be devoted to consideration of the major theme "Fostering an enabling environment for development: financial flows, including capital flows; investment; trade" (decision 1996/310).

The General Assembly, at its fifty-first session, welcomed the decision of the Council to devote its high-level segment to this theme (resolution 51/166).

This theme is also highly relevant to the one-day policy dialogue with the heads of financial and trade institutions and should therefore be a main focus of this dialogue in 1997.

The Council will have before it, at its high-level segment, the report of the Secretary-General on the subject.

The Council will also have before it the World Economic and Social Survey, 1997, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 118 (II) and 51/165 and Council resolution 1983/50. Part one of the Survey will contain the Secretary-General's assessment of the world economic situation as of mid-1997, including recent developments and the short-term outlook in developed, transition and developing economies and the situation regarding international trade and financial flows. Part two will be a study of fiscal adjustment in various areas of the world. Part three will address a number of salient social and economic trends and developments. The Survey will also contain a

statistical annex of data on the current world economic, trade, financial and energy situations.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

World Economic and Social Survey, 1997

B. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

Item 3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

(a) Coordination of activities on a system-wide basis: funding for operational activities for development: implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227

At the Council's substantive session of 1997, the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment will be devoted to the consideration of the funding for operational activities for development (see Council decision 1996/310). This subject arises from section I of annex I to General Assembly resolution 50/227 and takes into account the provisions of Assembly resolution 50/120, paragraph 10, and Council resolution 1996/42, paragraph 11. The Council will have before it a report of the Secretary-General on this subject.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/120, paragraph 53, the Council will examine the operational activities of the United Nations system with a view to ensuring the full implementation of Assembly resolution 50/120. The Secretary-General will provide a progress report, including appropriate recommendations.

In its resolution 1996/42, the Council decided to focus, in the working-level meetings of the operational activities segment, on issues in capacity-building and field- and regional-level coordination arising from General Assembly resolution 50/120. The Council will have before it reports of the Secretary-General dealing with both subjects, including problems encountered and appropriate recommendations.

In addition to these two focus areas, the Council will consider the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/120 on such subjects as the country strategy note, the programme approach, national execution, simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures, common premises and administrative services, and harmonization of budgets, as well as monitoring and

evaluation and other issues pertaining to the greater integration of the United Nations system, particularly at the country level. The Council will also review the progress of the United Nations development system, including relevant inter-agency bodies, based on the report of the Secretary-General.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum to the above containing comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development for 1995

Addendum to the above on capacity-building: conceptual and operational issues

Addendum to the above on regional dimensions of operational activities for development

(c) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

The Council will have before it the reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme, and the report of the Secretary-General on issues arising from the Executive Boards of United Nations funds and programmes, including their overall financial picture, as well as the annual reports of the four funds and programmes.

At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided, in order to ensure an effective and efficient interaction between the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the individual Executive Boards, that each Board would submit an annual report on its programmes and activities to the Council at its substantive session (resolution 48/162, annex I, para. 29). At its substantive session of 1994, the Council requested the United Nations development funds and programmes, through their Executive Boards, to include in their annual reports to the Council, which should have a common structure: (a) a section outlining measures taken in the implementation of the provisions of the triennial policy review of operational activities; and (b) a section on the activities and measures undertaken within the designated theme for the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment (resolution 1994/33).

In accordance with paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council will also consider the overall financial picture of the funds and programmes, including the availability of resources, the priorities and programmes agreed upon in the funds and programmes and the adopted targets, and will provide further guidance on priorities and make recommendations thereon to the Assembly and the funds and programmes.

Documentation

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/ United Nations Population Fund on its first regular session, its second regular session and its annual session

Annual report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its first regular session, its second regular session and its annual session

Annual report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme on its 1997 sessions

Annual report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme

Report of the Secretary-General on issues arising from the Executive Board of United Nations funds and programmes, including their financial picture

(d) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries is entrusted with the overall intergovernmental review of technical cooperation among developing countries within the United Nations system. It reports to the General Assembly through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council in accordance with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (General Assembly resolution 33/134). The Council will have before it the report of the Committee on its tenth session (Headquarters, 5-9 May 1997).

Documentation

Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on its tenth session

C. Coordination segment

Item 4. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:

(a) Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

(b) Freshwater, including clean and safe water supply and sanitation

In the Beijing Platform for Action, the Fourth World Conference on Women recommended that the Council should consider dedicating at least one coordination segment before the year 2000 to coordination of the advancement of women, based on the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women (para. 314). This request was reiterated by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session (resolution 50/203).

In accordance with Council decision 1996/310, the coordination segment will be devoted to the consideration of the following cross-sectoral theme: "Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system".

At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly welcomed the decision of the Council to devote its 1997 coordination segment to the topic (resolution 51/69). The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to present action-oriented recommendations to the Council at its coordination segment on the means to enhance system-wide coordination on gender issues and to mainstream a gender perspective throughout the United Nations system.

At the coordination segment of the Council of 1995, devoted to coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the Council decided that it would ensure the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions by promoting a clearer division of labour among them and providing clear policy guidance to them (thirteenth paragraph of agreed conclusions 1995/1). At its substantive session of 1996, the Council decided that it would continue to ensure, on a regular basis, the harmonization and coordination of the multi-year work programmes of relevant functional commissions (resolution 1996/36).

For its consideration of this theme, the Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the subject. The report will also address the harmonization and coordination of multi-year work programmes of relevant functional commissions in relation to the advancement of women.

In accordance with Council decision 1996/310, the coordination segment will also be devoted to the consideration of the sectoral theme "Freshwater, including clean and safe water supply and sanitation".

For its consideration of this theme, the Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the subject.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Report of the Secretary-General on freshwater, including clean and safe water supply and sanitation

D. General segment

Item 5. Integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major international United Nations conferences and summits

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/264, the Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1996 coordination segment of the Council on coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication.

At its substantive session of 1996, the Council invited the Administrative Committee on Coordination to present the reports on the work of its task forces on an enabling environment for economic and social development, basic social services for all, and employment and sustainable livelihoods, as well as the inter-agency committees on sustainable development and on women and gender equality, to the Council at its substantive session of 1997 and to identify policy and coordination issues to be addressed by the Council and the General Assembly (resolution 1996/36).

In resolution 51/171, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to ensure that the Administrative Committee on Coordination decided on the inter-agency mechanism for the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the incorporation of the mechanism into existing arrangements, and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1997 in the context of Council resolution 1996/36.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly reiterated its invitation to the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to submit to the Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Council, a report on the outcome of the World Food Summit, including actions to be taken to follow up the outcome of the Summit at all appropriate levels (see also Assembly resolution 50/109).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1996 coordination segment of the Council on the coordination of the United Nations system activities for poverty eradication

Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the outcome of the World Food Summit

Item 6. Coordination, programme and other questions:

(a) Reports of coordination bodies

The report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-seventh session (Headquarters, June-July 1997) will include the Committee's views on its consideration of the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

The Administrative Committee on Coordination will submit an annual overview report to the Council (Council resolution 13 (III)), which will provide the Council with a summary of the work carried out by the Administrative Committee on Coordination machinery in 1996.

Documentation

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-seventh session

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1996

(b) Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health

At its substantive session of 1995, the Council requested the United Nations system focal point on tobacco or health to intensify the dialogue with organizations of the United Nations system and Member States in order to strengthen tobacco control policies; invited Member States, bilateral and non-governmental organizations and organizations of the United Nations system to provide the necessary support to enable the United Nations system focal point to carry out his mandate in an effective manner; and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1997 on progress made by the system focal point in the implementation of multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health (resolution 1995/62).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(c) International cooperation in the field of informatics

At its substantive session of 1996, the Council stressed the continuing need for representatives of States to be closely consulted and actively associated with the respective executive and governing bodies of United Nations institutions dealing with informatics within the United Nations system, so that the specific needs of States as internal end-users could be given due priority;

decided that the action programme to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States should continue to be implemented from within existing resources and in full consultation with the representatives of States; requested the President of the Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year, from within existing resources; and requested the Secretary-General to report on the follow-up action taken on Council resolution 1996/35, including the findings of the Working Group, to the Council at its substantive session of 1997 (resolution 1996/35).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Coordination of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of energy

At its substantive session of 1996, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report, taking into account, as appropriate, the views of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, on the possibilities of strengthening the coordination of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of energy within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and to submit that report, through the Council, to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-second session. It also requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the regional commissions and other entities within the United Nations system, to address in the same report the need to enhance the capability of the system in the field of energy for sustainable development, and to explore all possible options for a high-level discussion in that context, taking into account the results of the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and of the special session of the Assembly scheduled for June 1997, as well as the guidance provided by the relevant environmental conventions and their respective conferences of the parties, in particular the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (resolution 1996/44).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

At its substantive session of 1996, the Council invited the Secretary-General to play an active advocacy role in regard to the serious threat posed by the spread of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), urged the United Nations Secretariat to be fully and effectively involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS and recommended that HIV/AIDS; and its social, economic and related impacts on the overall development process be considered a possible future theme for the high-level segment of the Council. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to transmit to the Council, at its substantive session of 1997, a concise initial report of the Executive Director of the Programme, prepared in collaboration with all relevant

specialized agencies, the United Nations Secretariat and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and to submit thereafter to the Council, on a biennial basis, a comprehensive report on the progress made in the fight against HIV/AIDS and its impact on the countries affected, including the implementation of the current resolution (resolution 1996/47).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

(f) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Secretary-General will circulate the sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 covering activities in the economic, social and human rights fields. The Council will consider the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget in the light of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the matter, with a view to submitting its own recommendations thereon to the General Assembly (Council resolution 1988/77).

Documentation

Relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-seventh session

(g) Calendar of conferences in the economic, social and related fields

The Council will be required to approve its calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 1998 and 1999 (Council decision 52 (LVII)).

At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report, through the Committee on Conferences, to each subsidiary organ of the Assembly and the Council on the cost of the conference services it utilized in the year concluded in order to enable those organs to plan more effectively (Assembly resolution 51/211 C).

Documentation

Draft calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 1998 and 1999

Report of the Secretary-General on the utilization of conference services by the Economic and Social Council

(h) United Nations University

The Council will have before it the report of the Council of the United Nations University on its work during 1996 (General Assembly resolution 3081 (XXVIII)).

Documentation

Report of the Council of the United Nations University

(i) Proclamation of international years

At its organizational session for 1997, the Council decided to include this sub-item in its agenda for the substantive session of 1997 (decision 1997/201). The Council will have before it the following three proposals: proclamation of the year 2000 as the international year of mountains, proclamation of the year 2001 as the international year of volunteers, and proclamation of the year 2000 as the international year of thanksgiving. Guidelines for the proclamation of international years, which were adopted by the General Assembly in its decision 35/424, are contained in the annex to Council resolution 1980/67.

Documentation

Letter dated 30 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General concerning the proclamation of the year 2000 as the international year of mountains (E/1997/3)

Letter dated 5 February 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General concerning the proclamation of the year 2001 as the international year of volunteers (E/1997/11)

Letter dated 6 February 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General concerning the proclamation of the year 2000 as the international year of thanksgiving (E/1997/12)

Item 7. Reports, conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies

At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly decided that the subsidiary bodies of the Council should be requested to include in their reports an executive summary, and that the reports should be concise, identifying clearly their conclusions and recommendations and the issues that might require attention and/or action by the Council (resolution 50/227, annex I, para. 68). The Council will have before it a compendium of the conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies prepared by the Secretariat.

Documentation

Document prepared by the Secretariat containing a consolidation of conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies

(a) Economic questions*

For the consideration of this sub-item, the Council will have before it the relevant sections of the document prepared by the Secretariat containing a consolidation of conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies.

Sustainable development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its fifth session (New York, 7-25 April 1997). The provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in decision 1996/231.

The Council will also have before it the report of the Committee for Development Planning on the work of its thirty-first session.

At its thirty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted guidelines for consumer protection (resolution 39/248). At its substantive session of 1995, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to Governments, at their request, in implementing those guidelines, to elaborate guidelines in the area of sustainable consumption patterns, and to examine the possible extension of these guidelines into other areas. It also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1997 on the implementation of the current resolution (resolution 1995/53).

At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly requested the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and invited the World Trade Organization, in accordance with their respective mandates and competence and in close cooperation with other competent United Nations bodies and the regional commissions, to address trade and environment matters comprehensively and to report, through the Commission on Sustainable Development, to the Council and to the Assembly at its special session in 1997 on the concrete progress achieved on the issue of trade and environment (resolution 50/95).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its fifth session (E/1997/29)

Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its thirty-first session (E/1997/35)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1995/53 on consumer protection

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* At its organizational session for 1997, the Council decided that the reports listed under this sub-item would also be made available under sub-item 7 (b) and that it would not duplicate discussion on the issues listed under sub-items 7 (a) and (b) (Council decision 1997/201).

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on trade and environmental matters

Science and technology for development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the work of its third session (Geneva, 12-16 May 1997). The provisional agenda for the third session of the Commission was approved by the Council in decision 1995/237.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its third session (E/1997/31)

Population and development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Population and Development on the work of its thirtieth session (New York, 24-28 February 1997). The provisional agenda for the thirtieth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in decision 1996/234.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirtieth session (E/1997/25)

Human settlements

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its sixteenth session (Nairobi, 28 April-7 May 1997). In accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/181, the report will include the report of the Commission on the progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (see A/43/8/Add.1).

At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Human Settlements at its session in 1997 to review its programme of work in order to ensure an effective follow-up and implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and to make recommendations thereon to the Council within the framework of the review of the activities of its subsidiary bodies; the Assembly also recommended that the Council, in the context of the overall review process of its subsidiary bodies, and within the context of the follow-up to Assembly resolution 50/227, should review the periodicity of the meetings of the Commission, taking into account the need for full and effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda (resolution 51/177). The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report to it, through the Council, on the implementation of resolution 51/177.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its sixteenth session, including the report of the Commission on progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/177 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Environment

The Council will review the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its nineteenth session (Nairobi, 27 January-7 February 1997). In doing so, the Council will consider only specific recommendations contained therein that require action by the Council and proposals on matters relating to the coordination aspect of the work of the Governing Council. The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme reports to the General Assembly through the Council (Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), sect. I, para. 3).

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its nineteenth session

Transport of dangerous goods

The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on its nineteenth session (Geneva, 2-11 December 1996). The Committee was established in pursuance of Council resolution 645 G (XXIII). The Secretary-General reports biennially to the Council on the work of the Committee (Council resolution 1488 (XLVIII)).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods on its nineteenth session (E/1997/16)

Cartography

The Council will consider the reports of the Secretary-General on the Fourteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, 3-7 February 1997) (decision 1994/228) and on the Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (New York, 2-6 June 1997) (decision 1993/225).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Fourteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific

Report of the Secretary-General on the Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas

Statistics

The Council will consider the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-ninth session (New York, 11-14 February 1997) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-ninth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 1995/239.

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-ninth session (E/1997/24)

Public administration and development

The Council reviews the question of public administration and finance every two years, following the Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance (Council resolution 1199 (XLII)). The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Thirteenth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance (New York, 21 April-2 May 1997).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Thirteenth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance

(b) Environmental questions*

Documentation

Relevant sections of the document prepared by the Secretariat containing a consolidation of conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies

Reports listed under sub-item 7 (a)

(c) Social questions

For the consideration of this sub-item, the Council will have before it the relevant sections of the document prepared by the Secretariat containing a consolidation of conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies.

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* At its organizational session for 1997, the Council decided to make the reports listed under sub-item 7 (a) available to the Council for the consideration of this sub-item and that it would not duplicate discussion on the issues listed under sub-items (a) and (b) (Council decision 1997/201).

Advancement of women

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-first session (New York, 10-21 March 1997). The provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission was approved by the Council in decision 1996/241.

It will also have before it the report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its seventeenth session (Santo Domingo, 17-21 February 1997). The Institute functions under the authority of a Board of Trustees, which reports annually to the Council.

At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly decided that the Assembly, the Council and the Commission on the Status of Women should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the Commission and to the Assembly, through the Council, on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (resolution 50/203). At its fifty-first session, the Assembly invited the Council, in order to facilitate the regional implementation, monitoring and evaluation process, to consider reviewing the institutional capacity of the United Nations regional commissions, and to consider how best to integrate the inputs by the regional commissions into the overall monitoring and follow-up to the Platform for Action. It requested the Secretary-General to report on ways to enhance the capacity of the Organization and of the United Nations system to support the ongoing follow-up to the Conference in the most integrated and effective way, including human and financial requirements, and measures taken and the progress achieved in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (resolution 51/69).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-first session (E/1997/27)

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its seventeenth session

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Social development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-fifth session (New York, 25 February-6 March 1997). The provisional agenda for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in decision 1996/243.

At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue monitoring the world social situation in depth on a regular basis (resolution 44/56). The Council will have before it the 1997 Report on the World Social Situation, submitted to the Assembly, through the Commission for Social Development and the Council.

At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit to the Assembly, at its fifty-second session, in 1997, through the Council, a progress report on the implementation process of the education for all objectives, including the recommendations of the International Consultative Forum on Education for All, taking into account the possible measures, if any, to improve the reporting procedure (resolution 50/143).

Documentation

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-fifth session (E/1997/26)

1997 Report on the World Social Situation (E/1997/15)

Report of the Secretary-General on the process of implementation of the objectives of education for all

Crime prevention and criminal justice

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its sixth session (Vienna, 28 April-9 May 1997). The provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in decision 1996/245. At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly requested the Commission to consider, as a matter of priority, the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime, with a view to finalizing its work on that question as soon as possible, and to report through the Council to the Assembly at its fifty-second session on the results of its work on that question (resolution 51/120).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its sixth session (E/1997/30)

Narcotic drugs

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fortieth session (Vienna, 18-27 March 1997). The provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in decision 1996/246. At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly decided to convene a special session in order to consider the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, and to propose new strategies,

methods, practical activities and specific measures to strengthen international cooperation in addressing the problem of illicit drugs; it also decided that the Commission should act as the preparatory body for the special session of the Assembly and invited the Commission to report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Council, on the progress in the preparations for the special session (resolution 51/64).

In accordance with article 15, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, article 18, paragraph 1, of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and article 23, paragraph 1, of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Board will report to the Council, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on its work for 1996.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fortieth session (E/1997/28)

Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1996

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports annually to the General Assembly through the Council, in conformity with paragraph 11 of the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Assembly resolution 428 (V), annex).

At its fifty-first session, in 1971, the Council decided that the report of the High Commissioner should be transmitted to the General Assembly without debate, unless the Council decided otherwise, at the specific request of one or more of its members or of the High Commissioner, at the time of the adoption of its agenda (resolution 1623 (LI), sect. II).

Documentation

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(d) Human rights questions

For the consideration of this sub-item, the Council will have before it the relevant sections of the document prepared by the Secretariat containing a consolidation of conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies.

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2003), as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/91, paragraph 16. In that resolution, the Assembly proclaimed the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, beginning in 1993,

and adopted the Programme of Action for the Decade contained in the annex to the resolution. The Assembly entrusted the Council and the Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with the Secretary-General, with the responsibility for coordinating the programmes and evaluating the activities undertaken in connection with the Decade and requested the Secretary-General to submit each year to the Council a detailed report on all activities of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, analysing the information received on such activities to combat racism and racial discrimination.

The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 51/81.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Human rights

The Council will have before it the reports of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions (Geneva, 30 April-17 May 1996 and 18 November-6 December 1996). The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was entrusted by the Council, as from 1987, with overseeing the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolution 1985/17). It will be recalled that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 3 January 1976. Under article 16 of the Covenant, States parties to the Covenant undertake to submit to the Secretary-General reports on the measures that they have adopted and on the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized in the Covenant. The Secretary-General is required to transmit copies of the reports to the Council for its consideration.

The Council will also have before it the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-third session (Geneva, 10 March-18 April 1997). The report of the Commission is expected to include its response to the following resolutions:

(a) General Assembly resolution 51/81, in which the Assembly invited the Commission to consider at its fifty-third session as a matter of priority the question of a possible world conference to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related contemporary forms of intolerance, and to make appropriate recommendations through the Council to the Assembly at its fifty-second session;

(b) General Assembly resolution 51/99, in which the Assembly called upon the Commission to continue to make proposals to the Assembly through the Council on the future course of action on the question of the right to development, in particular on practical measures for the implementation and enhancement of the Declaration on the Right to Development;

(c) General Assembly resolution 51/106, in which the Assembly decided to continue its consideration of the situation of human rights in Iraq during its

fifty-second session in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission and the Council;

(d) General Assembly resolution 51/107, in which the Assembly decided to continue the examination of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the situation of minority groups such as the Baha'is, during its fifty-second session, inter alia, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission and the Council;

(e) General Assembly resolution 51/108, in which the Assembly decided to keep the situation of human rights in Afghanistan under consideration at its fifty-second session, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission and the Council.

The Council will also have before it the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided to create the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; it also decided, inter alia, that the High Commissioner would be the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General. The Assembly requested the High Commissioner to report annually on his/her activities, in accordance with his/her mandate, to the Commission on Human Rights and, through the Council, to the Assembly (resolution 48/141).

The Council will also have before it the general comments of the Human Rights Committee. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 23 March 1976. In accordance with article 45 of the Covenant, the Human Rights Committee reports annually on its activities to the Assembly through the Council. In 1997, the Human Rights Committee is to hold its fifty-ninth session at Headquarters from 24 March to 11 April, its sixtieth session at Geneva from 14 July to 1 August and its sixty-first session at Geneva from 20 October to 7 November.

It will be recalled that, at its organizational session for 1983, the Council invited the Human Rights Committee to consider the possibility of rescheduling its meetings so that its report could be submitted to the General Assembly through the Council (decision 1983/101). At its organizational session for 1985, the Council agreed to the interim arrangement proposed by the Human Rights Committee, namely, that the Committee would transmit to the Council, on a regular basis, the text of the general comments adopted by the Committee in accordance with article 40, paragraph 4, of the Covenant; and, without prejudice to further consideration of the present arrangements at a future session, the Council decided to authorize the Secretary-General to transmit the annual report of the Human Rights Committee directly to the Assembly (decision 1985/105).

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions (E/1997/22)

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-third session (E/1997/23)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the general comments of the Human Rights Committee

Documents for information

Reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and by the specialized agencies

Reports submitted by the specialized agencies in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX)

Summary records of the fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Item 8. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested the emergency relief coordinator to prepare an annual report for the Secretary-General on the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations, including information on the central emergency revolving fund, to be submitted to the Assembly through the Council (resolution 46/182, annex, para. 35 (i)). At its substantive session of 1996, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to submit to the Council, at its substantive session of 1997, a comprehensive analytical report, including options, proposals and recommendations for a review and strengthening of all aspects of the capacity of the United Nations system for humanitarian assistance (resolution 1996/33). At its fifty-first session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Council at its substantive session of 1997 proposals for the clearer identification of priority needs and the formulation of a coherent humanitarian strategy within consolidated appeals, and requested the Secretary-General to invite States to submit their views on that subject in due time; it also invited the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, to make recommendations to the Council, at its substantive session in 1997, on possible ways to strengthen the effectiveness of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, and requested the Secretary-General to invite States to submit their views on that subject in due time (resolution 51/194).

The Council will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. In Council resolution 1996/32 and General Assembly resolution 51/30 C, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system were called upon to support governmental requirements for national capacity-building and institutional renewal in the areas of social reconstruction and development, environmental management, public services provision, and support for private-sector development, and for implementing priority field-based programmes in the rehabilitation and

reintegration of displaced persons and in the reconstruction and development of Baalbeck-Hermel and the south Lebanon region.

In accordance with Council resolution 1983/46, the Secretary-General apprises the Council annually on the status of the assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon

Item 9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Assistance to the Palestinian people. At its sixty-third session, in 1977, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it annual reports on the question of assistance to the Palestinian people (resolution 2100 (LXIII)).

At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Council, on the implementation of Assembly resolution 51/150 on the subject.

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. At its substantive session of 1996, the Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, concerning the matters set forth in Council resolution 1996/37, and to report thereon to the Council; it requested the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the resolution and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 1997 (resolution 1996/37). At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly (resolution 51/141).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Item 10. Regional cooperation

The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation and take the necessary action on the decisions and recommendations of the regional commissions contained therein.

The Council will also have before it the summaries of the surveys of regional economic and social conditions prepared by the regional commissions, highlighting the main problems and prospects of those regions. At its first regular session of 1979, the Council decided to discontinue the submission to it of the reports of the regional commissions (decision 1979/1). The reports are transmitted directly to all Member States. The Secretary-General, in his annual report on regional cooperation, in addition to reporting on the meetings of the executive secretaries, highlights developments within each region and draws the Council's attention to specific issues requiring its consideration. The report of the Secretary-General will bring to the Council's attention any decisions or recommendations of the Commissions that statutorily require approval by the Council. A section of the report will deal with the question of review and reform of the regional commissions (Council decision 1997/203).

In its resolution 50/227, the General Assembly adopted further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. In accordance with that resolution, the Council should provide for the review of the regional commissions, with a view to strengthening and enhancing their effectiveness as action- and policy-oriented bodies in the economic and development fields with better response to the conditions and environments unique to the specific regions; improving their coordination with the entire United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, the Bretton Woods institutions and the regional development banks; and strengthening their active participation relating to the implementation at the regional level of the results of major United Nations conferences. At its substantive session of 1996, the Council requested the regional commissions to continue undertaking their own reviews, as called for in Assembly resolution 50/227, and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1997 (resolution 1996/41).

Pursuant to Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean resolution 553 (XXVI), the Council will also have before it a note by the Secretary-General on reform of the United Nations and its impact on the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

At its substantive session of 1995, the Council requested the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to take an active part in the follow-up to the project on a Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1997 (resolution 1995/48).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation

Summary of the economic survey of Europe, 1996

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1996

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Asia and the Pacific, 1997

Summary of the economic survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1996

Summary of economic and social developments in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 1996

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions

Note by the Secretary-General on reform of the United Nations and its impact on the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (E/1997/5)

Note by the Secretary-General on a Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

Item 11. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

At its substantive session of 1996, the Council adopted resolution 1996/40 entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan". The Council reaffirmed the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the population of the Syrian Golan to their natural and all other economic resources, and regarded any infringement thereof as being illegal; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, through the Council, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution. The attention of the Council is drawn to Assembly resolution 51/190 on the subject.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1996/40 and Assembly resolution 51/190

Item 12. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227

At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/227 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields. As requested, the Council will have

before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution.

At its substantive session of 1996, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive document compiling information on the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of the functional commissions and expert groups and bodies, and decided to begin consideration during its substantive session of 1997 of the role, working methods and relationship with other bodies of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee for Development Planning, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, and the Committee on Natural Resources. It also requested its President to establish arrangements for informal open-ended consultations during the Council's substantive session of 1997 in order to better prepare for further work of the Council on the issue (resolution 1996/41).

In its resolution 1996/41, the Council also requested the regional commissions to continue undertaking their own reviews, as called for in Assembly resolution 50/227, and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1997 (see item 10 above).

In its resolution 50/227, annex I, paragraph 43, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a study with a comprehensive assessment of the current arrangements for the Council's sessions.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227

Report of the Secretary-General on the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields (E/1996/97)

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of the functional commissions and expert groups and bodies of the Economic and Social Council (E/1996/97/Add.1)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions

Report of the Secretary-General containing a comprehensive assessment of the present arrangements for the Council's sessions

Item 13. *Non-governmental organizations:*

(a) Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

The Council will consider the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the work of its 1997 session (New York, 5-16 May 1997) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. At its substantive session of 1995, the Council decided that the Committee should meet annually (decision

1995/304). The Committee reports to the Council in accordance with Council resolutions 3 (II) and 1296 (XLIV). At its substantive session of 1996, the Council approved an update of the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations set out in its resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968 (resolution 1996/31).

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

(b) Increase in the membership of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

In its decision 1995/304, on the general review of arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, the Council decided to increase, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, the current membership of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and to implement that decision after the completion of the current review.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General

Item 14. New and innovative ideas for generating funds

At its substantive session of 1996, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report, to be prepared in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, on all aspects of new and innovative ideas for generating funds for globally agreed commitments and priorities, in particular those established at recent United Nations conferences and summits, including in particular a review of their feasibility and possible modalities, as well as the costs and benefits of their implementation; and also requested the Secretary-General, in the preparation of the report, to consult and build upon work of relevant parts of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and to submit his report for discussion to the Council at its substantive session of 1997 and to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to organize briefings, as appropriate, for the Council's substantive session of 1997 in order to keep Member States informed of progress being made on the subject. The Council invited Governments to submit their written views on the subject to the Secretary-General and requested the Secretary-General, in a supplement to his report, to communicate those views to the Council at its substantive session of 1997 and to the Assembly at its fifty-second session (resolution 1996/48).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General